

Claims

1. A system for providing a telephone service, comprising:

a device for receiving an analog signal from a telephone and converting the analog signal into a digital signal in a first format;

a modem for receiving the digital signal in the first format;

a digitizer for receiving the analog signal from the telephone;

the device, in a first mode of operation, coupling the digital signal in the first format to the modem; and in a second mode of operation, coupling the analog signal from the telephone to the digitizer.

2. The system of claim 1 wherein the telephone service is a POTS.

3. The system of claim 1 wherein the digital signal in the first format is coupled to the modem via a digital subscriber loop.

4. The system of claim 1 wherein the analog signal from the telephone is coupled to the digitizer via telephone wires.

5. The system of claim 3 wherein the analog signal from the telephone is coupled to the digitizer via a telephone wires.

6. The system of claim 1 wherein the modem further converts the received digital signal in the first format to a digital signal in a second format.

7. The system of claim 6 wherein the digitizer further converts the received analog signal from the telephone to a digital signal in a third format.

8. The system of claim 7 wherein the second format is the same as the third format.

9. The system of claim 1 wherein the second mode of operation is a power failure mode of operation.

10. A method for providing a telephone service, comprising the steps of:

receiving an analog signal from a telephone and converting the analog signal into a digital signal in a first format;

coupling the digital signal in the first format to a modem in a first mode of operation; and

coupling the analog signal from the telephone to a digitizer, in a second mode of operation.

5 11. The method of claim 10 wherein the telephone service is a POTS.

12. The method of claim 10 wherein the first coupling step is done via a digital subscriber loop.

10 13. The method of claim 10 wherein the second coupling step is done via a digital subscriber loop.

14. The method of claim 12 wherein the second coupling step is done via a digital subscriber loop.

15 15. The method of claim 10 further comprising the step of converting the received digital signal in the first format to a digital signal in a second format at the modem.

20 16. The method of claim 10 further comprising the step of converting the received analog signal from the telephone into a digital signal in a third format at the digitizer.

25 17. The method of claim 16 wherein the second format is the same as the third format.

18. The method of claim 10 wherein the second mode of operation is a power failure mode of operation.

30 19. An apparatus, comprising:

an interface for coupling to a telephone;

35 processor for converting an analog signal from the telephone to a digital signal; and

a switch, in a first mode of operation, for coupling the digital signal to a modem; and in a second mode of operation, for coupling the analog signal from the telephone to a digitizer.

40 20. The apparatus of claim 19 wherein the second mode of operation is a failure mode.